

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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SUBJ: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR DISTO AND CSCE; VIENNA FOR MBFR

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. FRIDAY THROUGH MONDAY PAPERS FEATURED
DOMESTIC STORIES; SOME DAYS ALSO FRONTPAGED KISSINGER
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MIDEAST SHUTTLE. LITTLE COMMENT.

1A. FRIDAY PAPERS INSIDE HAD PENTAGON URGES NEW
NERVE GASES; ALSO LONDON INSTITUTE DOUBTS SALT PROGRESS.

NYTIMES HAD MOSCOW, GEN. KULIKOV SAYS CERTAIN PENTAGON LEADERS SEEK ACCEPTABLE MEANS FOR NUCLEAR WARFARE. LATIMES HAD WASHINGTON UPI REPORTING MANSFIELD SAID THURSDAY HE DISAGREED WITH THOSE WHO FEAR NIXON WOULD BE NEGOTIATING FROM WEAKNESS AT SUMMIT AND PREDICTED THERE WILL BE NO ORGANIZED POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN SENATE TO HIS UNDERTAKINGS AT SUMMIT OR IN MIDEAST.

1B. SATURDAY WASHPOST INSIDE HAD MBFR SQUIB; PAPERS REPORTED MOSCOW HOPEFUL OF NIXON VISIT; BALTSUN MOSCOW REPORTED ARTHUR BURNS CALLS SOVIET IMPATIENT ON TRADE; WASHPOST REPORTED FROM PORTLAND MAINE CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE WAS TOLD SOME AMERICAN FISHERMEN CARRY HIGH-POWERED RIFLES AND ARE READY TO USE THEM AGAINST SOVIET

FISHERMEN TO PROTECT THEIR EQUIPMENT.

1C. SUNDAY NYTIMES REPORTED INSIDE NATO IS FACING TOUGH DECISIONS OVER STANDARDIZATION OF ITS WEAPONS; ALSO UN UNIT SEES ARMS RACE IN INDIAN OCEAN; MONDAY BALTSUN FRONTPAGES ZUMWALT WARNS OF SOVIET SEA POWER.

2. TROOPS. SATURDAY WASHPOST REPORTED TALKS BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES ON FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE RESUMED IN VIENNA WITH DEADLOCKED POSITIONS UNCHANGED AFTER A FOUR-DAY RECESS.

3. CHEMWAR. FRIDAY WASHPOST GETLER REPORTED SUBCOMMITTEE WAS TOLD AN INTENSIVE ADMINISTRATION-WIDE REVIEW OF CHEMWAR WILL BE COMPLETED IN A MONTH OR TWO BUT ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AMOS JORDAN SAID NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S LONG-HELD STRONG OPPOSITION TO A BAN ON HERBICIDES AND RIOT CONTROL AGENTS HASN'T CHANGED, WHEREAS OTHER SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID PRIVATELY THE MATTER HAS RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION FROM KISSINGER. GETLER REPORTED JORDAN SAID HE COULDN'T ANSWER IN OPEN SESSION QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW MUCH NEW BINARY UNCLASSIFIED

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NERVE GAS MUNITIONS WOULD COST, WHEREAS UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES HAVE RUN AS HIGH AS A BILLION AND HALF IF PROJECT IS EXPANDED BEYOND ARTILLERY TO ROCKETS AND CLUSTER BOMBS, AND JORDAN ALSO SAID PANEL WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE ITS DOORS TO DISCUSS WHETHER U.S. HAS CONSULTED ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES AND GOTTEN AGREEMENTS TO STORE THESE MUNITIONS IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

3A. NYTIMES HEADLINED FINNEY, PENTAGON URGES NEW GASES, FINNEY SAYING DOD ARGUED IT NEEDED NEW FAMILY OF NERVE GASES TO MODERNIZE WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS AN INADEQUATE STOCKPILE OF CHEMICAL MUNITIONS. ACCORDING FINNEY, EFFECT OF JORDAN'S TESTIMONY WAS TO PUT DOD AT ODDS WITH

ACDA, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AND SOME LEADING SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF CHEMWAR POLICY; AND PENTAGON IS ALSO RESISTING IN CURRENT NSC REVIEW OF CHEMWAR POLICY ANY ATTEMPT TO INTERPRET 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL AS PRECLUDING TEAR GAS OR HERBICIDES. FINNEY REPORTED JORDAN SIAD PRODUCTION OF BINARY NERVE GASES WOULD NOT LEAD TO PROLIFERATION OF NERVE GASES TO SMALLER COUNTRIES OR TERRORIST GROUPS AND WOULD NOT COMPLICATE EFFORTS AT GENEVA DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE TO WORK OUT A TREATY BANNING THE PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

4. LONDON ITEMS. FRIDAY NYTIMES HEADLINED SHUSTER, STRATEGIC ANALYSTS GLOOMY ON DETENTE, SHUSTER REPORTING THAT AN AUTHORITATIVE STUDY, THE ANNUAL REPORT BY THE

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, HELD THAT TENSIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET UNION WERE INCREASING AT A TIME WHEN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE SEEMED TO BE WEAKENING, DESPITE ALL THE EMPHASIS IN U.S. ON DETENTE. REPORT ALSO SAYS CHANCES OF SINO-SOVIET CONFLICT APPEAR SLIMMER NOW; CONTENTS SUCCESSFUL USE OF OIL WEAPON PRODUCED MOST POTENT SENSE OF A NEW ERA OF ANY EVENT OF RECENT YEARS; ALSO MIDEAST WAR HEIGHTENED TENSIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW.

4A. FRIDAY WASHPOST STORY FROM NEWS DISPATCHES WAS HEADED: KEY MOVE AT SALT DOUBTED, STORY SAYING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE FOR ANY SIGNIFI-
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CANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET UNION IN SECOND PHASE OF SALT TALKS, SAYING AT BEST THE TWO SUPERPOWERS CAN ACHIEVE A FREEZE ON SOME STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUCH AS LAUNCHERS AND PAYLOADS, BUT NOT ON THE CRUCIAL MIRVS. INSTITUTE SAID A BASIC PROBLEM AT SALT WAS THAT WHAT TO ONE COUNTRY MIGHT SEEM PARITY, TO THE OTHER MIGHT SEEM AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN AN UPPER HAND. STORY ADDED THERE ARE DEEP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. AND ALLIES THAT CAN NO LONGER BE ACCOMMODATED BY PLEDGES OF TRANS-ATLANTIC HARMONY AND THIS HAS COME ABOUT BECAUSE U.S. HAS BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT MILITARILY AND PRESENCE OF HER FORCES OVERSEAS HAS CEASED TO BE ESSENTIAL FOR U.S., AND CONTINGENTS OUTSIDE AMERICA, INCLUDING THOSE IN EUROPE, HAVE BECOME FORCES OF GLOBAL MANEUVER VIS-A-VIS SOVIET UNION.

5. MOSCOW AP IN SATURDAY BALTSUN REPORTED BURNS SAID SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS QUITE IMPATIENT TO EXPAND TRADE AND SAID HE THOUGHT A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION COULD BE REACHED ON QUESTION OF GRANTING RUSSIA EQUAL TARIFF STATUS. IN EXCLUSIVE AP INTERVIEW, BURNS ADDED HE FOUND RUSSIANS IN A VERY PRACTICAL MOOD AND NOTED TWO

FACTORS HAMPERING FASTER EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES: 1, FINANCING; 2, ABSENCE OF A U.S. DECISION ON HOW IT WILL ORGANIZE ITS SOURCES OF ENERGY SUPPLIES.

6. ZUMWALT. MONDAY BALTSUN CORDDRY REPORTS ZUMWALT, IN LONG INTERVIEW AT PENTAGON, SAID THERE HAS BEEN SUCH A REVERSAL OF AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN MARITIME POWER DURING HIS FOUR YEARS AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS THAT THE SOVIET FLEET COULD CUT OFF THE SEA LANES TO U.S. SHIPPING IN A SHOWDOWN TODAY, AND THIS THREAT WILL EXIST FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS UNTIL U.S. FLEET CAN BE REBUILT WITH AN ARRAY OF NEW-TYPE SHIPS TO OFFSET THE DRASTIC REDUCTIONS MADE SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR PEAK.

7. COMMENT. CHICAGO SUN-TIMES EDITORIAL MAY 6 CALLS IT ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT THE U.S. TAKE THE LEAD IN REPAIRING DEVASTATION OF ITS OWN MAKING VIA HERBICIDAL WARFARE IN VIETNAM, AS DESCRIBED BY THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AND U.S. SHOULD ALSO SEEK UNCLASSIFIED

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MEASURES TO PROTECT FUTURE GENERATIONS FROM HERBICIDAL SCOURGE.

7A. TODAY'S BALTSUN HAS COLUMN BY CHARLES YOST ON SO-CALLED DARTMOUTH CONFERENCE OF RUSSIANS AND AMERICANS AT TBILISI AND EMPHASIS IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE ON CONTROL AND REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS, COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IS FUNDAMENTALLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH DETENTE. YOST SAYS THIS STATEMENT SEEMS IRREFUTABLE AND ADDS RUSSIANS ARE UNEASY ABOUT SCHLESINGER'S RE-TARGETING POLICY WHICH SEEMS TO MAKE NUCLEAR WAR LESS UNTHINKABLE. AT TBILISI BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL STEP FORWARD IN LIMITATION AND THEN THE REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS IS REQUIRED, ADDING WHAT IS MOST VITAL IS TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM ALREADY ACHIEVED. RUSH

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